

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/694,683

Applicant(s)

HSU ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas S. Lee

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/28/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/29/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-25 are allowable over the prior of records.
1. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding claim 1, the allowability, at least in part, resides in a method to handle operation exceptions in an automated manufacturing system, fails to teach in part steps of selecting a floating process flow corresponding to said operation exception event and said product lots from a floating process flow database; linking said floating process flow to said standard process flow such that said next step is derived from said floating process flow; thereafter continuing manufacturing using said floating process flow; unlinking said floating process flow and said standard process flow such that said next step is derived from said standard process flow when said floating process flow is completed.
2. Claims 2-9 are allowed for the same reasons above.
3. Regarding claim 10, the allowability, at least in part, resides in an apparatus to control floating process flows in an automated manufacturing system, fails to teach in part a management unit to create, update, and delete floating process flows; a data unit to store said floating process flows; and a control unit to select said floating process flows corresponding to said operation exception events.
4. Claims 11-17 are allowed for the same reasons above.
5. Regarding claim 18, the allowability, at least in part, resides in an apparatus to control an automated manufacturing system, fails to teach in part a management unit to create, update, and

Art Unit: 2125

delete floating process flows; a data unit to store said floating process flows; and a control unit to select said floating process flows corresponding to said operation exception events.

6. Claims 19-25 are allowed for the same reasons above.

Conclusion

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Douglas Lee, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3745. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM- 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Leo Picard*, can be reached on (571) 272-3749 or via e-mail addressed to [*leo.picard@uspto.gov*]. The fax number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [*doug.lee@uspto.gov*].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631.

Douglas Lee
5/6/2005



LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100